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Attorneys for Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation And Sprint/United Management Company

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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) Case No. 07-CIV-7350(BSJ)(KNF)
)
) AMENDED ANSWER AND
) COUNTERCLAIMS OF
) DEFENDANTS SPRINT NEXTEL
) CORPORATION AND
) SPRINT/UNITED MANAGEMENT
) COMPANY TO THE AMENDED
) COMPLAINT

Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company, by and through their attorneys, hereby file this amended answer and counterclaims and answer the Amended Complaint of Plaintiff Melissa Eng-Hatcher ("Plaintiff") in paragraphs numbered to correspond with the paragraphs of the Amended Complaint itself.

AS TO THE INTRODUCTION

- 1. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.
- 2. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 2 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.
- 3. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 3 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.
- 4. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 4 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others. Additionally, Defendant Sprint Nextel Corporation denies that it employed any of the potential class members or opt-ins, and further denies that it ever actively operated any of the retail stores Plaintiff refers to in Paragraph 3.

AS TO THE SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

- 5. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 5 (a-b) inclusive of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.
- 6. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 6 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief on certification, but admit Plaintiff seeks to refer to the classes she describes herein as "Classes."
- 7. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 7 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action.
- 8. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 8 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action.
- 9. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 9 of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO THE FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 10. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 10 of the Amended Complaint.
- 11. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 11 of the Amended Complaint.

- 12. Paragraph 12 states a legal conclusion to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company admit that various laws provide for the payment of overtime compensation when certain types of employees work more than 40 hours per week, but deny the remainder of the allegations in this paragraph.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 13. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 13 of the Amended Complaint.
- 14. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 14 of the Amended Complaint.
- 15. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 15 of the Amended Complaint, but aver that certain authorized supervisors can correct erroneous data relating to the amount of hours worked.
- 16. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 16 of the Amended Complaint.
- 17. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 17 of the Amended Complaint.
- 18. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 18 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 19. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 19 of the Amended Complaint.
- 20. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 20 of the Amended Complaint.

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- 21. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 21 of the Amended Complaint.
- 22. Paragraph 22 sets forth legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 22 of the Amended Complaint. The description of persons within the purported classes is sufficiently imprecise that it cannot ascertain if an exemption would apply to one or more members of the purported "Classes."
- 23. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 23 of the Amended Complaint. The description of persons within the purported classes is sufficiently imprecise that it cannot ascertain if the administrative exemption would apply to one or more members of the purported "Classes."
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 24. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 24 of the Amended Complaint. The description of persons within the purported classes is sufficiently imprecise that it cannot ascertain if the professional exemption would apply to one or more members of the purported "Classes."
- 25. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 25 of the Amended Complaint. The description of persons within the purported classes is sufficiently imprecise that it cannot ascertain if the executive exemption would apply to one or more members of the purported "Classes."
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 26. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 26 of the Amended Complaint. The description of persons within the purported classes is sufficiently imprecise that it cannot ascertain if the

commissioned sales exemption would apply to one or more members of the purported "Classes."

- 27. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 27 of the Amended Complaint. The description of persons within the purported classes is sufficiently imprecise that it cannot ascertain if the outside sales exemption would apply to one or more members of the purported "Classes."
- 28. Defendant Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 28 of the Amended Complaint. The description of persons within the purported classes is sufficiently imprecise that it cannot ascertain if an exemption would apply to one or more members of the purported "Classes."
- 29. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 29 of the Amended Complaint.
- 30. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 30 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action.
- 31. Paragraph 31 states a legal conclusion to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 31 of the Amended Complaint.
- 32. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 32 of the Amended Complaint.
- 33. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 33 of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 34. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company admit the allegations set forth in Paragraph 34 of the Amended Complaint.
- 35. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company admit the allegations set forth in Paragraph 35 of the Amended Complaint.
- 36. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company admit the allegations set forth in Paragraph 36 of the Amended Complaint based on the facts as they are known to exist to Defendant Sprint Nextel Corporation at the time of the filing of this Answer.
- 37. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny that a declaratory judgment against it is appropriate in this case, but recognizes that federal law gives this Court power to issue a declaratory judgment in certain circumstances.
- 38. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 38 of the Amended Complaint, but admit that some of the employees Plaintiff attempted to describe in the purported "Classes" worked and/or work in this District.

AS TO THE PARTIES

39. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 39 of the Amended Complaint, in part because they lack the information necessary to respond, but Sprint/United Management Company admits that it had previously employed Plaintiff during some of the period of time covered by some of the allegations in the Amended Complaint.

- 40. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 40 of the Amended Complaint and footnote 1, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or a collective action, but admit that Plaintiff attached a signed consent form as Exhibit A to the original Complaint.
- 41. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 41 of the Amended Complaint, but aver that Sprint Nextel Corporation is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Kansas, and was formed in 2005 as a result of the merger of Sprint Corporation, Inc. and Nextel Communications, Inc. and that Sprint/United Management Company is a subsidiary of Sprint Nextel Corporation.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 42. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 42 of the Amended Complaint, but aver that Sprint/United Management Company has employed hundreds of employees in New York at various times during the class period alleged in the Complaint and additional employees during the respective period referenced in the Complaint outside of New York and California.

AS TO THE **COLLECTIVE / CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 43. deny the allegation set forth in Paragraph 43 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admits that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.
- Paragraph 44 states a legal conclusion to which no answer is required, to the 44. extent an answer is required, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegation set forth in Paragraph 44 of the Amended

Complaint., including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admits that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.

As to the Allegations Applicable to All Classes

- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 45. deny the allegations in Paragraph 45 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 46. deny the allegations in Paragraph 46 of the Amended Complaint as they lack the information necessary to respond to this allegation.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 47. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 47 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 48. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 48 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 49. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 49 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 50. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 50 (a-g) of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 51. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 51 of the Amended Complaint as they lack the information necessary to respond to this allegation.

As to the Allegations Specific to the Collective Action Class

Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 52. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 52 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim

for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.

53. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegation set forth in Paragraph 53 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that if the Court conditionally certifies this action, it may provide notice to the employees subject to the FLSA collective action by mail.

As to the Allegations Specific to the Class Action Class

- 54. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegation set forth in Paragraph 54 of the Amended Complaint, including any claim for relief or certification of a class or collective action, but admit that Plaintiff seeks to bring certain claims on her own behalf and on behalf of others.
- 55. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 55 of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO **COUNT ONE**

- 56. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company incorporate the responses to the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this Answer as if set forth fully herein.
- 57. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 57 of the Amended Complaint, but aver that for the periods that Defendants understand are covered by the allegations in the Complaint, Defendant Sprint/United Management Company was an employer engaged in interstate commerce pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a)).

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- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 58. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 58 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 59. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 59 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 60. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 60 of the Amended Complaint.
- 61. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 61 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 62. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 62 of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO **COUNT TWO**

- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 63. incorporate the responses to the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this Answer as if set forth fully herein.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 64. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 64 of the Amended Complaint.
- 65. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 65 of the Amended Complaint.
- Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 66. deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 66 of the Amended Complaint.

- 67. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company incorporate the responses to the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this Answer as if set forth fully herein.
- 68. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 68 of the Amended Complaint.
- 69. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 69 of the Amended Complaint.
- 70. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 70 of the Amended Complaint.
- 71. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 71 of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO COUNT FOUR

- 72. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company incorporate the responses to the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this Answer as if set forth fully herein.
- 73. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 73 of the Amended Complaint.
- 74. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 74 of the Amended Complaint.
- 75. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 75 of the Amended Complaint.

76. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 76 of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO COUNT FIVE

- 77. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company incorporate the responses to the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this Answer as if set forth fully herein.
- 78. Paragraph 78 states a legal conclusion to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 78 of the Amended Complaint.
- 79. Paragraph 79 states a legal conclusion to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 79 of the Amended Complaint.
- 80. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 80 of the Amended Complaint.
- 81. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 81 of the Amended Complaint.
- 82. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 82 of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO THE PRAYER FOR RELIEF

83. Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny all of the allegations set forth in the Amended Complaint under letters A through L.

Under the Prayer for Relief, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny that Plaintiff is entitled to relief and requests that the Court enter iudgment in favor of Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny and award their attorney's fees, costs and all other relief the Court deems just and appropriate.

AS TO THE **GENERAL DENIAL**

In further answering Plaintiff's Amended Complaint, Defendants Sprint Nextel 84. Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny each and every allegation contained therein which has not been specifically admitted.

AS TO THE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Amended Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted 85. or for which the damages sought can be awarded.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

None of the persons described in the Amended Complaint are employees of 86. Sprint Nextel Corporation and Plaintiff's counsel has been so notified and Sprint Nextel Corporation is an improper party to this action.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Amended Complaint is barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statute 87. of limitations.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

88. Plaintiff's claims are barred by the doctrine of laches.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

89. Plaintiff, by her conduct, has waived any rights she may have had or is estopped to complain of the matters alleged in the Amended Complaint.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff is barred from seeking the relief requested by the doctrine of unclean 90. hands.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

91. The conduct of Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company that is alleged to be unlawful was taken as a result of the conduct of Plaintiffs and/or the putative class members, and they are thus estopped to assert any cause of action against Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

92. Plaintiffs and/or the putative class members have released some or all of their claims, and therefore they are barred from bringing this action.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

93. Plaintiff has not been damaged in the manner or amount alleged or in any manner or amount.

AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

94. Plaintiff is not entitled to liquidated damages because of Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation's and Sprint/United Management Company's good faith belief that their actions did not violate the FLSA and because Sprint Nextel Corporation's and Sprint/United Management Company's conduct was not willful.

AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

95. Plaintiff has failed to state facts sufficient to support a claim for compensatory damages, liquidated damages or any equitable relief, including declaratory relief.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for attorneys' fees. 96.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

97. Plaintiff's class action claims under New York Labor Law are barred by Rule 901(b) of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules which provides that "[u]nless a statute creating or imposing a penalty, or a minimum measure or recovery specifically authorizes the recovery thereof in a class action, an action to recover a penalty, or minimum measure of recovery created or imposed by statute may not be maintained in a class action."

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's class action claims under the New York Labor Law should be 98. dismissed insofar as Plaintiff's waiver of penalties/liquidated damages under the New York Labor Law renders Plaintiff an inadequate class representative.

AS AND FOR A FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

99. Plaintiff's class action claims under the New York Labor Law should be dismissed insofar as such claims are inherently incompatible with Plaintiff's collective action claims under the FLSA and asserting both state law class action claims and FLSA collective action claims in the same action violates express Congressional intent.

AS AND FOR A SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Neither Plaintiff, the putative class nor the class asserted herein meet the 100. requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

101. The members of the putative class are not "similarly situated" to each other or to Plaintiff.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

102. Plaintiff and the putative class cannot satisfy the prerequisites of 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

AS AND FOR A NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 103. have the right of recoupment and/or setoff against Plaintiff and each putative class member who received compensation for hours they did not work and were not otherwise entitled to receive pay.

AS AND FOR A TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's and the putative class members' claims are barred, in whole or in part, 104. based on the doctrine of unjust enrichment.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company 105. reserve the right to raise additional affirmative defenses as may be discovered during the course of these proceedings.

WHEREFORE, Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company deny that Plaintiff is entitled to any damages or relief, including, but not limited to, the damages asserted and relief sought in the Complaint and Defendants Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management company request that the Court enter judgment in their favor

along with attorneys' fees and costs of this action and any other relief the Court deems appropriate.

COUNTERCLAIMS

Come NOW Defendants/Counter-Plaintiffs Sprint Nextel Corporation and Sprint/United Management Company and file these counterclaims to Plaintiff's Amended Complaint and allege and state as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

- Counter-Plaintiff Sprint Nextel Corporation is a corporation organized and 1. existing under the laws of the State of Kansas, and was formed in 2005 as a result of the merger of Sprint Corporation, Inc. and Nextel Communications, Inc. Counter-Plaintiff Sprint/United Management Company ("SUMC") is a subsidiary of Sprint Nextel Corporation.
- As alleged in the Amended Complaint, Counter-Defendant Melissa Eng-Hatcher 2. is a resident of New York. She was also employed by SUMC as a non-exempt retail store consultant in two of Sprint's New York retail stores.
- The Court has jurisdiction over these claims as they are compulsory 3. counterclaims. (Rule 13(a), F.R.C.P).
 - 4. Venue for these counterclaims is properly in this Court

II. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- Counter-Defendant Eng-Hatcher was employed by SUMC as a non-exempt, 5. hourly retail store consultant from July 19, 2004 to March 5, 2006 in two of Sprint's New York retail stores.
- Throughout her employment with SUMC, Counter-Defendant was required to 6. record, on a daily basis, the hours she worked using various time keeping systems.

- 7. These time records show that Counter-Defendant often worked less than 40 hours a week.
- 8. However, the matching payroll related records show that Counter-Defendant was paid for working 40 hours for weeks in which she worked less than 40 hours. These overpayments are not attributable to valid non-work hours for which retail store consultants could receive compensation for such as Paid Time Off, jury duty, holiday pay or FMLA or short term disability leave.
- 9. Based on current information, Counter-Defendant received over 60 hours of pay during her employment with SUMC for which she was not otherwise entitled.

III. CLAIMS

COUNT I (RECOUPMENT)

Paragraphs 1 through 9 of the Counterclaims are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth herein.

- 10. During her employment with SUMC, Counter-Defendant received pay for hours she did not work and was not entitled to be paid.
- 11. Under the principle of recoupment, Counter-Plaintiffs are entitled to recoup those amounts she should not have received, in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT II (SETOFF)

Paragraphs 1 through 11 of the Counterclaims are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth herein.

12. During her employment with SUMC, Counter-Defendant received pay for hours she did not work and was not entitled to be paid.

Under the principle of setoff, Counter-Plaintiffs are entitled to setoff those 13. amounts she should not have received, in an amount to be proven at trial, against any amounts Plaintiff may be awarded with respect to her claims.

COUNT III (UNJUST ENRICHMENT)

Paragraphs 1 through 13 of the Counterclaims are incorporated herein by reference as through fully set forth herein.

- During her employment with SUMC, Counter-Defendant received pay for hours 14. she did not work and was not entitled to be paid.
- Counter-Defendant has, thus, been unjustly enriched by those payments at the 15. expense of SUMC. As such, Counter-Plaintiffs are entitled to recover those amounts she should not have received, in an amount to be proven at trial.

IV. CONTINGENT COUNTERCLAIMS

Counter-Defendant has filed an amended complaint against the Counter-Plaintiffs for alleged wage and hour violations under the FLSA and the New York Labor Laws (as defined in the Amended Complaint) on behalf of herself and seeking to represent a nationwide collective class under the FLSA and a New York class under the New York Labor Laws.

- No other plaintiffs or putative class members have joined Counter-Defendant's 16. action and neither class has been certified to date.
- Counter-Plaintiffs may have similar counterclaims of recoupment, setoff and 17. unjust enrichment against the putative but unknown class members. However, because neither class has been certified and no additional plaintiffs have joined yet, Counter-Plaintiffs cannot determine with certainty what counterclaims they may have against any of the putative class members.

- 18. As such, in the event that an FLSA collective class is conditionally certified by the Court, Counter-Plaintiffs conditionally assert the counterclaims of recoupment, setoff and unjust enrichment against any class member whose records reveal that he or she received compensation for which they did not earn and were not entitled to receive.
- 19. Additionally, in the event that a New York class is certified by the Court, Counter-Plaintiffs conditionally assert the counterclaims of recoupment, setoff and unjust enrichment against any class member whose records reveal that he or she received compensation for which they did not earn and were not entitled to receive.

WHEREFORE, the Counter-Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be entered on their Counterclaims as follows:

- that Counter-Plaintiffs be awarded monetary damages in the amount of the (a) overpayments, which is to be proven at trial;
- that any monetary damages awarded to Counter-Plaintiffs will be used for set-off (b) purposes only in the event that Counter-Defendant is awarded any monetary damages under her Amended Complaint; and
- (c) that the Counter-Plaintiffs be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem to be necessary and proper.

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